



What is the Critical Health Indicators report?

The Critical Health Indicators report describes Michigan's health and well-being and establishes a method for monitoring improvement. The report is organized by 17 specific health topics, and their 42 related measures or indicators. These indicators directly or indirectly measure the health and health behaviors of Michigan residents. The data reported in this document are based on numbers provided by state and federal sources. Links to state resources have been included to assist the reader interested in more detailed information.

This set of topics and indicators was developed through collaboration of various areas at the Michigan Department of Community Health. From the onset, there was interest in the relationship between health behavior and health outcomes in the forms of morbidity and mortality.

Focusing on morbidity/mortality data helps to identify opportunities for interventions to improve the health of Michigan's residents, particularly where deaths are premature or preventable. The report examines each indicator, providing 10 years of data when available. Trend data are plotted on graphs to illustrate annual changes. By considering past trends, state and local health agencies can plan for the future.

What do Critical Health Indicators tell us about Michigan's health?

In general, the health of Michigan's population is improving. Most of the indicators, including Adolescents' Use of Tobacco, Heart Disease Deaths, Stroke Deaths, All Cancer Deaths, Breast Cancer Deaths, Cervical Cancer Deaths, Colorectal Cancer Deaths, Prostate Cancer Deaths, Mammography, Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy, Teen Pregnancy, Abortions, Children's Blood Lead Levels, Infant Mortality, HIV/ AIDS New Cases, Childhood Immunizations, Syphilis, Childhood Injuries, Chlamydia, and Older Adult Flu Shots show improvement over time.

Relatively few indicators reported showed movement in the wrong direction including Teen Alcohol and Drugs, Pediatric Overweight, Adult Obesity, Diabetes Prevalence and Related Deaths, Kidney Disease and Related Deaths, Hepatitis C, and Employer-based health insurance coverage.

A few indicators did not change over the past ten years; these include Physical Inactivity, Nutrition/Diet, Tobacco Use – Adults, Adult Binge Drinking, Lung Cancer Deaths, Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease Deaths, Asthma, Gonorrhea, Suicide, Unintentional Injuries, Adequacy of Prenatal Care, and the Number of Uninsured Adults and Children.

While the overall health of Michigan appears to be improving, there are noticeable racial and gender disparities within many of the indicators reported. Minority populations and males were shown to have an increased risk of death in many of the mortality indicators reported.

An increasing demand for public health services continues to exist within an uncertain financial environment. This document provides information on many state initiatives to support better health in local communities and statewide.

For more information regarding this report, please contact:

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